

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (c) The issue came up for discussion during the meeting of the Union Minister of Rural Development with the Ministers of Rural Development from North Eastern states (except Assam & Manipur) on 27th July, 2000 at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi when it was felt that the proposed revision in the formula for sharing of funds between the Centre and the States from 75:25 to 90:10 can only be considered in consultation with the Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance. The North-Eastern States were advised to take up the matter with the Planning Commission.

Funds demanded for SCs/STs

2000. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Forum of SC/ST Parliamentarians' in its representations submitted to the Prime Minister on 17th December, 1996, 1st September, 1997 and 23rd July, 1998 had demanded allocation of funds for overall development of SCs/STs in proportion to their population from the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the amount of funds demanded by this Ministry in the Ninth Plan for procurement and distribution of agricultural land of SC and ST families; and

(c) the funds allocated and released for the above purpose during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had referred the matter to Planning Commission. The Planning Commission, however, did not find favour with the proposal on the ground that "population" alone cannot be taken as the sole criterion for allocation of funds for development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.